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ComposedDate: 03/30/1998
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Subject: Emerging Problem with FBI

I wanted to keep you up-to-date on a growing problem with the FBI. Although it has until recently kept up with the appropriate pace of review, it has now slowed significantly and is speaking as if it cannot finish this fiscal year. The FBI would like to finish its work after the Board goes out of business. We have said that we cannot agree. We advised the FBI that we would need to disclose this information to Chairman Burton in our monthly report. In an apparent preemptive strike, the FBI scheduled a meeting today with Jeff Shaffner, a staff member of Burton's committee. We understand that the FBI is planning to say that it cannot complete its work on time and that it is being pushed too fast. Upon learning of this meeting, I called Dan Moll, the Deputy Chief of Staff with whom we have ongoing contacts. I told him what we understand the situation to be and that the FBI essentially wants more time. I said that on a staff basis we have worked well with the FBI, and that we are appreciative of its concerns, but that we want to get the work done. Moll said that he was not originally scheduled to be at the meeting with the FBI, but that he will reschedule so that he can be there. He also said that the FBI will get a very cold reception from Burton if it wants an extension and that Burton wants this work to be completed this year. I told Moll that I was hoping to hear him say that. We will be sending a follow-up letter to Freeh this week. I am also hoping that, if it is possible, Jack will call Freeh early next week.

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